

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled).

8. (Currently amended) In a fuel cell assembly, a method for sealing surfaces between first and second components of a fuel cell stack in said fuel cell assembly, comprising:

a.) forming a dielectric element in the general shape of the surfaces to be sealed;

b.) positioning said ~~dielectric~~ dielectric element adjacent ~~at least one of~~ to said first and second components;

c.) forming a paste of a first braze alloy on at least one of said dielectric element and said ~~at least one of said components~~ first component;

d.) forming a paste of a second braze alloy on at least one of said dielectric element and said second component;

e.) bringing said ~~dielectric~~ dielectric element, said paste of said first braze alloy, said paste of said second braze alloy, and said at least one of said first and second components together as an assembly, wherein said paste of said first braze alloy is disposed between and in contact with said first component and said dielectric element, and said paste of said second braze alloy is disposed between and in contact with said second component and said dielectric element; and

e-) f.) sintering said assembly at a temperature whereby said first and second braze alloy becomes alloys become liquefied and when cooled becomes become bonded to said ~~dielectric~~ dielectric element and ~~said at least one of said first and second~~ components of said fuel stack assembly, respectively, to form said seal.

9. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 8 wherein at least one of said first and second braze alloy is alloys are powdered silver bronze.

10. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said ~~dielectric~~ dielectric element is formed of yttrium-stabilized zirconia.

11. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 8 wherein ~~said at least one of said components~~ first component is selected from a group consisting of an anode plates plate and a cathode plates plate, and said second plate is the other of said anode and cathode plate.

12. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said paste of at least one of said first and second braze alloy is formed on said dielectric element.

13. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said fuel cell assembly is employed as an auxiliary unit in a vehicle.